

affly hospital he may choose, unless suddenly taken ill, or in danger of death from accident; otherwise, he is compelled to go the *Bureau Central*, in the *Place du Parvis*, and there receive a ticket for that hospital—to which the nature of the disease peculiarly entitles him. This *Bureau*, in addition to the above, serves the purpose of a large dispensary. The poor there receive bandages, trusses, bougies, catheters, belts, wooden legs, &c., &c., &c. On certain days, attention is given to special diseases, as of the eye, urethra, &c. The *Bureau Central* is composed of twelve physicians and six surgeons. But to return to the hospitals. The number now in Paris under the supervision of the *administration générale* amounts to 27*. In these 27 there are about 18,000 patients. The number consigned to the care of one medical attendant is, by far too great. Most of the hospital staff are men of extensive practice, and it cannot be expected that in an hour or less, physicians can prescribe for 80 patients—more frequently still for 90, and often for 100. The hurried manner in which they pass through the wards, is as unproductive to patients as to those who take the trouble to follow them—scarcely sufficient time being allowed to enable the *interne* to write the oft repeated order, *bouillon, bouillon, bouillon*. Indeed, to hear a clinical teacher's observations on cases in the ward, a person must station himself in advance at some bed where the ticket has been taken down—for at such only does he stop. The hurried manner in which Physicians pass through the wards, is, to a considerable extent, compensated for, by the care and attention of the zealous and highly efficient hospital apothecaries and other officers. Patients are much more at the mercy of these, than of the attending Physicians, and much more still at the mercy of the Sisters of Charity who act as nurses. The latter are in the constant habit of altering prescriptions, diet, &c., *ad libitum*. The *externes* are advanced students—elected annually—and having served for one year are eligible for *internes*. These are elected for four years.

The diet of the hospitals is divided into four kinds—the lowest or 1st consisting of nothing—the 4th or most generous of bread, soup, boiled meat, dry or fresh vegetables, in sufficient quantity, with wine. The bread used is very good and is made at the *Boulaugerie Générale* in the *Rue Scipion*. The meat is killed at the *Boucherie Générale* in the *Boulevard de l'Hôpital*. These establishments are under the exclusive management of the *administration générale*. When patients leave the hospital they are allowed 3 portions of bread, 3 of wine and 5 of boiled meat with soup. The poor receive, in addition, some money and clothes.

* I do not, of course, include the numerous private institutions, some of which I have already mentioned in the text.